U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON PROGRAM EVALUATION:
NEW PARADIGMS FOR EVALUATING
DIPLOMACY IN THE 21ST CENTURY
June 8-9, 2010

Anti-Terrorism Track

PowerPoint presentation from workshop on
Evaluation’s Role in Informing the Design of Anti-Terrorism
Assistance Programs

Session transcript:
U.S. Department of State
Anti-Terrorism Assistance Program
DS/T/ATA & S/CT
Assessing and Evaluating Antiterrorism Assistance Programs

Challenges and Lessons Learned
The Anti-Terrorism Assistance (ATA) program is the primary mechanism of the USG to provide counterterrorism assistance to Partner Nations (PN)

- ATA’s goal is to help PNs build advanced, self-sustaining AT/CT capacities.

- Since its inception in 1983, ATA has trained approximately over 67,000 law enforcement professionals from 159 countries.

- Currently ATA is assisting 63 PNs.

- S/CT is responsible for policy formulation and DS/S/ATA for program administration and implementation.
S/CT currently is revising its policies and procedures for adding, prioritizing and removing countries on the list of ATA Partner Nations (PNs).

Countries are granted PN status by S/CT based on a variety of factors, including terrorism threat, U.S. interests, USG AT/CT goals and strategic objectives, and the potential PN’s political will.

Once a country is designated a PN, an assessment is undertaken to help inform the design of a program of assistance.
ATA uses an assessment tool that includes 25 Critical Capabilities grouped in five functional areas:

- Preventive
- Response
- Post-Incident
- Cyber Security
- Sustainment
Critical Capabilities are assessed at three levels of analysis:
- Strategic
- Operational
- Tactical

ATA uses a Likert rating scale to assess terrorist threats and capabilities to counter these threats.

Assessment identifies any gap between capabilities and threat.
The assessment provides the base line data needed to design and monitor programs of assistance.

ATA Programs are designed to help Partner Nation improve their AT/CT capabilities.

Assessment and periodic Program Reviews inform the formulation of Country Assistance Plans (CAPs) covering a five-year span and revised annually, CAPS specify ATA’s goals and objectives as well as performance targets and indicators on a county-by-country basis.
ATA uses periodic Program Reviews (PR) to assess program results and impact.

ATA measures results using two standards:
- skills retention;
- institutional development
Programs are reviewed every 2-3 years.

The review evaluates program results and PN’s capabilities.

The ATA assessment tool is tailored for the program reviews.

For reporting purposes countries are grouped in one of five categories:

- NONE
- BASIC
- INTERMEDIATE
- ADVANCED
- SUSTAINED.
CHALLENGES
Assessments and Reviews have unique challenges:

- **Assessment:**
  - Access to host country institutions and data
  - Understanding of country’s polity and institutions

- **Review/Evaluation:**
  - Difficulties in pinpointing cause-and-effect relationships
  - Difficulties in measuring changes in perception and attitude

- **Overall Program Effectiveness**
  - Measuring outcomes rather than simply output
LESSONS LEARNED

- Assessments must help determine whether program implementation supports policy/strategic objectives.
- Assessments are essential to develop baseline data needed to design and evaluate programs.
- Programs must have clear measurable objectives.
- Periodic program reviews are critical to assess result and identify constraints/needs.
- Flexibility in programming is indispensable to timely respond to evolving changes and demands.
QUESTIONS ?